

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) A method for processing information according to claim 11, wherein  
the ~~prescribed~~ predetermined processing changes a character form of the character data.
3. (currently amended) A method for processing information according to claim 11, wherein  
the ~~prescribed~~ predetermined processing changes a control code of the speech information.
4. (currently amended) A method for processing information according to claim 11, wherein  
the ~~extracting step extracts information expressing an identified characteristic is emotion from the speech information.~~
5. (currently amended) A method for processing information according to claim 11, further comprising:  
sending the character data processed by the ~~prescribed~~ predetermined processing to a network.
6. (currently amended) A method for processing information including character data, comprising:  
extracting from the character data at least one of a prescribed character code, ~~and one of~~ a prescribed word; ~~and a prescribed phrase~~ or punctuation as prescribed information;  
converting the character data to speech information; and  
subjecting the character data or speech information to prescribed processing based on the extracted prescribed information, wherein the prescribed processing ~~performs either processing~~ is one of: dependent upon the meaning of the prescribed information; adding, modifying or appending to add a word to the character data expressing an emotion or processing

to perform conversion to a word expressing an emotion and controlling processing of an ending word in dependence upon the prescribed information.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) An information transmission system, comprising:

a first information processing apparatus which captures input speech information of a speaker, accesses voiceprint information relating to a voiceprint of speech information; making use of the voiceprint information, extracts information expressing a characteristic of the ~~input information~~speaker, changes the input information to character data, subjects the character data to prescribed processing based on the information expressing the characteristic of the speaker, and sends the character data subjected to the prescribed processing to a network; and

a second information processing apparatus which receives character data via the network, extracts prescribed information from the character data, changes the character data to other information, and subjects the character data or other information to prescribed processing based on the extracted prescribed information.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (new) A method for processing speech information of a speaker, comprising:

accessing voiceprint information relating to a voiceprint of speech information;

identifying a characteristic of the speaker based upon the voiceprint information;

generating a control command in dependence upon the characteristic of the speaker;

converting the speech information to character data; and

subjecting the character data to predetermined processing in dependence upon the control command.

12. (new) An apparatus for processing speech information of a speaker, comprising:

a control signal generator jointly responsive to the speech information and stored voiceprint information relating to a voiceprint of speech information and generating a control command in dependence upon a characteristic of the speaker; and

a converter converting the speech information to character data, the converter producing character data with predetermined processing depending upon the control command so that the character data is processed according to the characteristic of the speaker.

13. (new) A computer-readable recording medium in which is recorded program for processing speech information, the program to be executed on a computer, the information processing program comprising:

a portion for accessing voiceprint information relating to a voiceprint of speech information;

a portion identifying a characteristic of a speaker based upon the voiceprint information;

a portion generating a control command in dependence upon the characteristic of the speaker;

a portion converting the speech information to character data; and

a portion subjecting character data to predetermined processing in dependence upon the control command.

14. (new) A computer for processing speech information, the computer containing a program comprising:

a portion for accessing voiceprint information relating to a voiceprint of speech information;

a portion identifying a characteristic of a speaker based upon the voiceprint information;

a portion generating a control command in dependence upon the characteristic of the speaker;

a portion converting the speech information to character data; and

a portion subjecting character data to predetermined processing in dependence upon the control command.

15. (new) A method for processing speech information of a speaker, comprising:

obtaining a characteristic of the speaker from one of a face image of the speaker, a blood pressure measurement of the speaker, a heart rate measurement of the speaker, the current position of the speaker, and a characteristic provided as an input by the speaker;

generating a control command in dependence upon the characteristic of the speaker;

converting the speech information to character data; and

subjecting character data to predetermined processing in dependence upon the control command.

16. (new) A method for processing speech information of a speaker who uses sign language, comprising:

obtaining a characteristic of the speaker from an image of the speaker performing sign language;

generating a control command in dependence upon the characteristic of the speaker;

converting the image to character data; and

subjecting character data to predetermined processing in dependence upon the control command.

17. (new) A method for processing information including character data, comprising:

extracting from the character data at least one of a prescribed character code, a prescribed word, a prescribed phrase and punctuation as prescribed information;

converting the character data to sign-language information corresponding to speech; and

subjecting character data or sign-language information to prescribed processing based on the extracted prescribed information, wherein the prescribed processing is

one of: dependent upon the meaning of the prescribed information; adding, modifying or appending a word to the character data and controlling processing of an ending word in dependence upon the prescribed information.

18. (new) An information transmission method, comprising:

a first information processing process comprising the steps of capturing input speech information, changing the input speech information to character data; and sending the character data to a network; and

a second information processing process comprising the steps of receiving character data via the network, and changing the character data to speech information.

19. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein the second information processing process further comprises the step of outputting the received character data and the input speech information changed to character data.